



STATE OF DELAWARE
Child Death, Near Death and Stillbirth Commission

April 24, 2009

FINAL MINUTES

Meeting Date and Time: April 24, 2009 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: Appoquinimink State Service Center

In Attendance:

- **Commissioners:** Ms. Patricia Ciranni, Mr. Malcolm Cochran, Ms. TaniaCulley, Ms. Marjorie Hershberger, Dr. Kathy Janvier, Dr. Amanda Kay, Ms. Mary Kate McLaughlin, Ms. Judith Ann Moore, Dr. Lani Nelson-Zlupko, Dr. David Paul, Ms. Marie Renzi, Dr. Kevin Sheahan, Dr. Wendy Sturtz
- **Proxies:** Ms. Patricia Dailey-Lewis, Sgt. Randy Fisher, Judge Joelle Hitch, Ms. Allison McDowell, Dr. Nancy Wilson, Lt. Drew Outten
- **Staff:**
Anne Pedrick, MS, Executive Director
Islanda Finamore, CDR Specialist
Michael Brown, Office Manager
Angela Birney, Records Technician

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 PM by Commission Chair, Dr. Colmorgen. A quorum was established with 18 members present.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes:

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the February 6, 2009, meeting was approved without change.

NEW BUSINESS

The Commission chair began the meeting by voting upon new panel members. During discussions regarding joint reviews with the fatal incident review team; it was recommended that each of the three regional panels attempt to seat a member of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council on the child death review panels. Laura M. Giles would be the designee for the Child Abuse and Neglect Panel. Bridget V. Poulle would be the designee for the NCC Panel. Cindy Boehmer will be the designee for the Kent/Sussex Panel. A motion was duly made and seconded and unanimously approved to accept all three members to join their respective panels.

Executive Director Report:

Staff: Islanda Finamore has resigned from her position as the Child Death Review Specialist and has taken a position as a Division of Family Services Deputy Attorney General in Kent County. Anne Pedrick has submitted a request to the Chief Justice to fill the Child Death Review Specialist vacancy. Chief Justice reviews the request to fill vacancies on the first of every month and staff will share the Child Death Review Specialist duties in the interim.

Panels: Commissioners were reminded to discuss with their panel designees the necessity of sending a proxy when possible. During the February New Castle County Panel there was no representation from Law Enforcement, the Attorney General's Office or the Medical Examiner's Office. The panel was only able to complete one case and the lack of attendance impedes the process. Also, to accommodate increased workloads and staff shortages with our partners, the K/S and NCC Panels will be expanding their meetings by thirty minutes to an hour (as caseload demands) and will convene every other month. The CAN Panel will maintain their monthly schedule. Another item that was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting was grouping together specific manners of death such as reviewing all homicide cases together in one meeting. Some panel members feel that depending on where the advocacy interest lies; that too much time is being spent on a particular kind of case. The Executive Committee asked for this item to be forwarded to the Commission to see if the idea needed to be voted upon or if the Commission had any comments or suggestions with regard to this suggestion. The Commission discussed the suggestion and decided to allow the panels to attempt to implement this review process as a pilot and will revisit this item in one year. The anticipated goal is only a six month delay of cases if grouping is done.

Annual Report: The Draft is not available to the Commission at this time. The Executive Director was unable to secure the advertising agency that produced the last version of the annual report. Anne Pedrick spoke with the Office of Management and Budget and they would not approve the use of this vendor to repeat the production of the annual report. Anne Pedrick would like to include a spreadsheet in the annual report that shows the CAN data broken down into many variables as the National Database does not provide in-depth review.

Medical Mandatory Reporting Training: This topic will be covered in the 3:00 pm meeting with CPAC.

Abusive Head Trauma Education Program: Marjorie Hershberger briefed the Commission on the meeting at Christiana Hospital; with Dot Fowler (director of Maternal Child Health Education Program) regarding the Abusive Head Trauma Program. She stated that Prevent Child Abuse Delaware was awarded a grant to look at implementing a program statewide on shaken baby syndrome. Marj was contracted as the coordinator of this program. Marj evaluated various national programs that were being utilized and presented them to the Abusive Head Trauma subcommittee. The subcommittee selected the hospital based model which is known as the Mark Diaz model. The next process in the implementation process was to get hospital support. Marj also met with the Directors of Nursing at the Association of Executive Nurse Committee meeting and presented the program. As a result of this presentation, many have decided to implement this program. The focus will be on Christiana Hospital initially since it is the hospital that delivers the majority of over 7,000 babies in the state. Marj is currently in the process of getting all the appropriate paperwork/forms drafted and signed along with commitment statements. Marj will be doing some of the initial training under the Train the Trainer Program. Marj also informed the Commission that according to the American Academy of Pediatrics the term Shaken Baby Syndrome will be replaced and known as Abusive Head Trauma for all medical professionals.

Other Business:

There was no other business discussed.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously decided to enter Executive Session.

Upon return to public session, a motion was duly made and seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn at 2:56 pm.